



MAHABHARATA

THE GREAT EPIC OF INDIA

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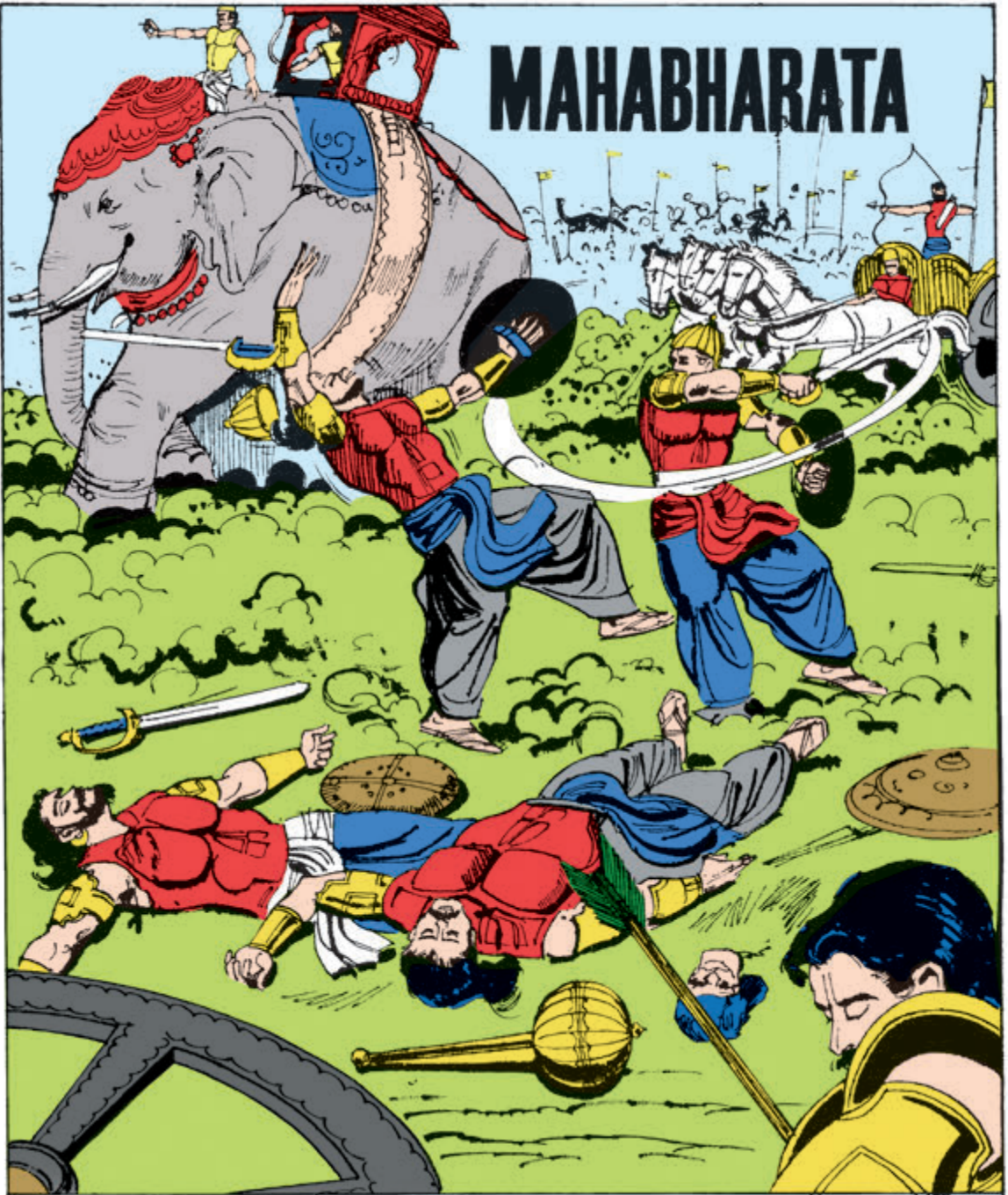
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MAHABHARATA



THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA OF HASTINAPURA HAD A HUNDRED SONS—DURYODHANA, DUHSHASANA AND OTHERS, WHO WERE TOGETHER CALLED THE KAURAVAS. THEIR FIVE COUSINS—YUDHISHTHIRA, THE TRUTHFUL, BHEEMA THE STRONG-ARMED, ARJUNA, THE MAN OF SKILL, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA WERE THE PANDAVAS. FROM THEIR BOYHOOD, THE KAURAVAS HATED THE PANDAVAS, FEARING THAT THEY MIGHT INHERIT THE KINGDOM.

THEY POISONED BHEEMA'S FOOD AND
THREW HIM INTO A RIVER.



THEY TRIED TO BURN THE PANDAVAS IN A
HOUSE MADE OF LAC.



THE PANDAVAS ESCAPED ALL THESE WICKED PLANS TO DESTROY THEM. THEIR MARRIAGE TO
DRAUPADI, DAUGHTER OF KING DRUPADA, MADE THEM POWERFUL.



FINALLY, WISDOM PREVAILED ON KING DHRTIRASHTRA AFTER LISTENING TO THE ADVICE
OF SUCH LEARNED MEN AS...

BHEESHMA, THE OLDEST
MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL FAMILY.



VIDURA, THE WISEST MAN
IN THE COURT.

DRONA, THE MILITARY EXPERT
AND TEACHER OF THE
PRINCES.



HE GAVE HALF THE KINGDOM TO THE PANDAVAS, WHO BUILT A GREAT CITY, INDRAPRASTHA, AND RULED WISELY.

THE RAJASUYA
YAGNA HAS
MADE YOU KING
OF KINGS,
YUDHISHTHIRA.

THANKS TO YOUR
GUIDANCE, LORD
KRISHNA!



THE SUCCESS OF THE PANDAVAS MADE DURYODHANA VERY JEALOUS.

WE MUST
FIGHT
THEM,
DUHSHASANA

WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM.
CAN WE, UNCLE SHAKUNI?

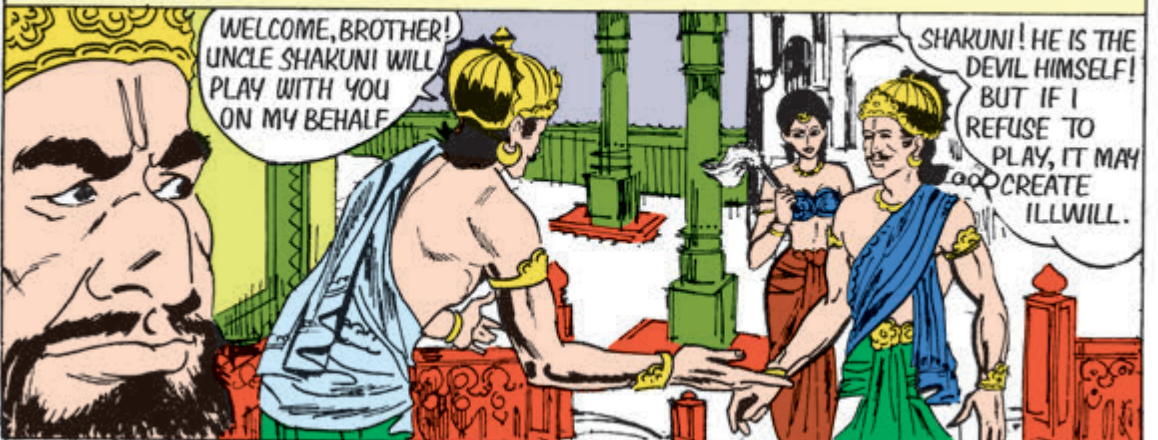
WHY DON'T YOU INVITE
YUDHISHTHIRA TO A GAME OF
DICE?



DURYODHANA WAS PLEASED WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION.

WELCOME, BROTHER!
UNCLE SHAKUNI WILL
PLAY WITH YOU
ON MY BEHALF

SHAKUNI! HE IS THE
DEVIL HIMSELF!
BUT IF I
REFUSE TO
PLAY, IT MAY
CREATE
ILLWILL.



THE GAME BEGAN IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING AND HIS WELL-WISHERS.



YUDHISHTHIRA CAST THE DICE.



YUDHISHTHIRA WAS BLINDLY CARRIED AWAY BY THE GAME.



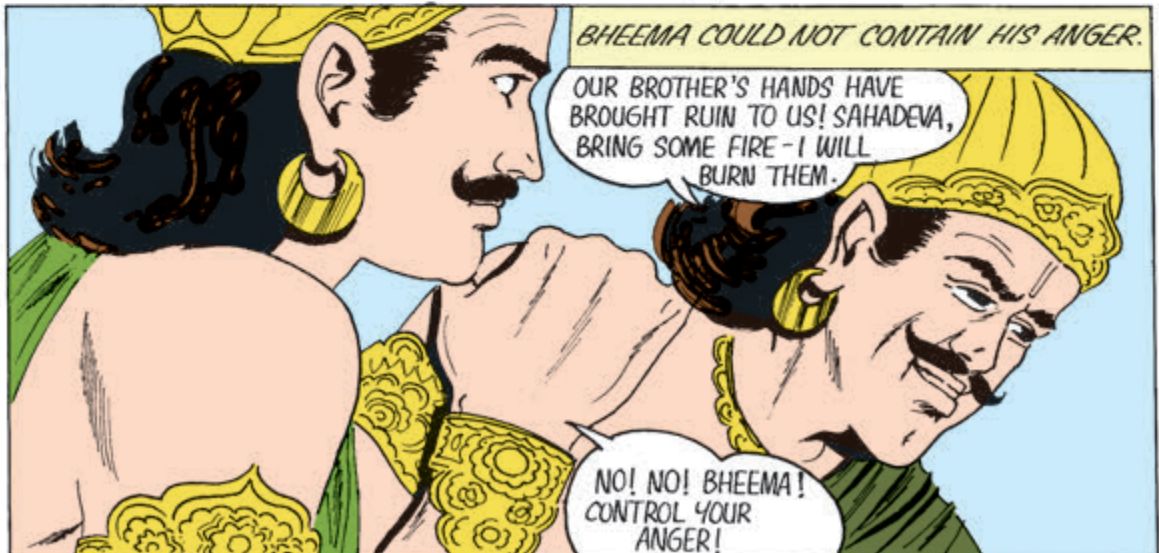
THE GAME TOOK SO BAD A TURN THAT THOSE WHO LOOKED ON WERE SHOCKED.



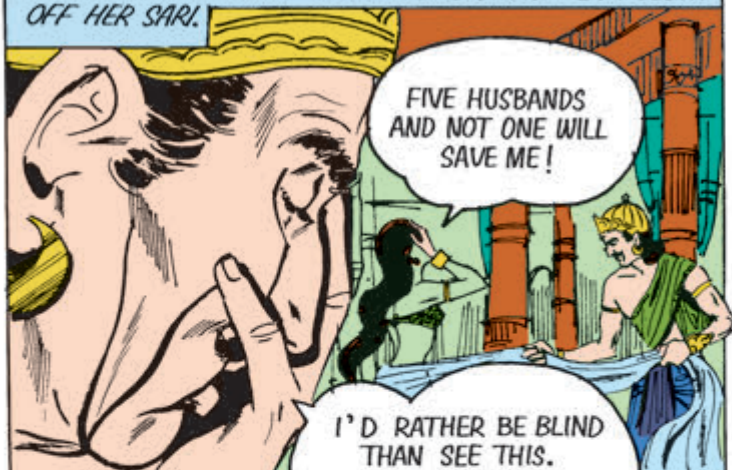
DURYODHANA ROSE, FLUSHED WITH VICTORY.



BHEEMA COULD NOT CONTAIN HIS ANGER.



DUHSHASANA FURTHER INSULTED DRAUPADI BY PULLING OFF HER SARI.



THEN, BY THE GRACE OF LORD KRISHNA, A MIRACLE TOOK PLACE.



SARI WITHIN
SARI

A MIRACLE !

GOD HAS
SAVED
HER!



THE SHAMEFUL ACT OF HIS SONS MADE DHRITARASHTRA SAD.

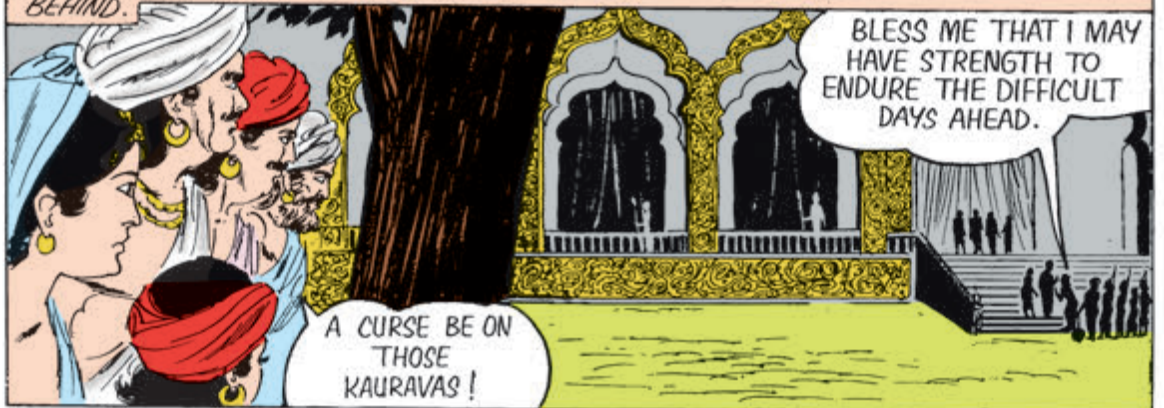
MY SON HAS
WON YOUR KINGDOM
BY TRICKERY.
I RETURN IT TO
YOU. GO AND
LIVE IN PEACE.



ONCE AGAIN DURYODHANA CHALLENGED YUDHISHTHIRA TO A GAME OF DICE AND YUDHISHTHIRA PLAYED WITH RENEWED HOPE.

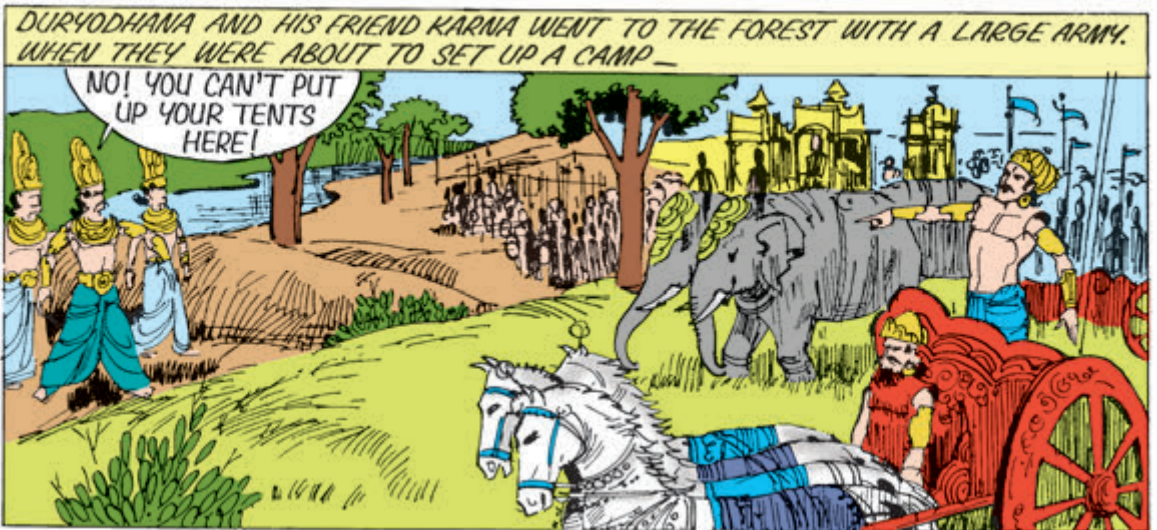
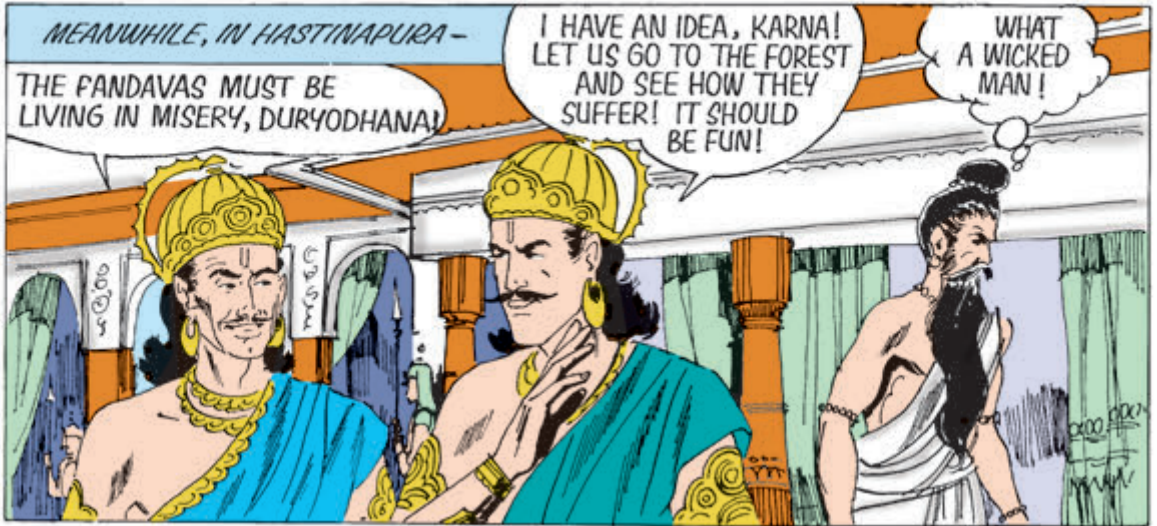


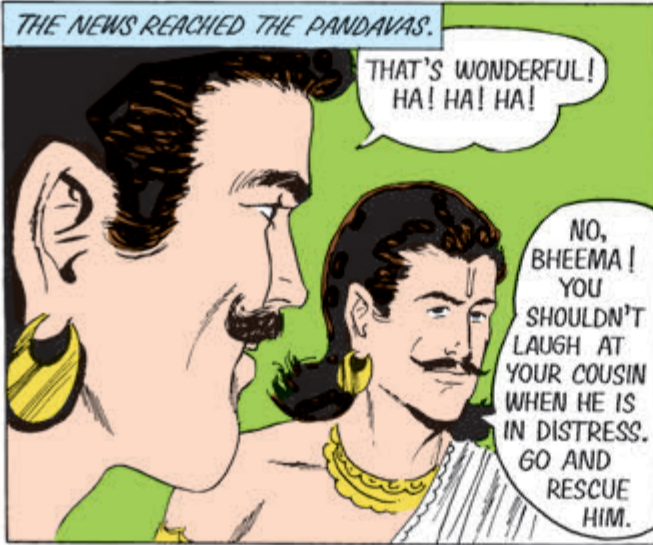
AGAIN YUDHISHTHIRA LOST. AFTER BOWING TO BHEESHMA AND THE OTHER ELDERS THE PANDAVAS LEFT THE CITY. KUNTI, THEIR MOTHER, AND THEIR CHILDREN STAYED BEHIND.

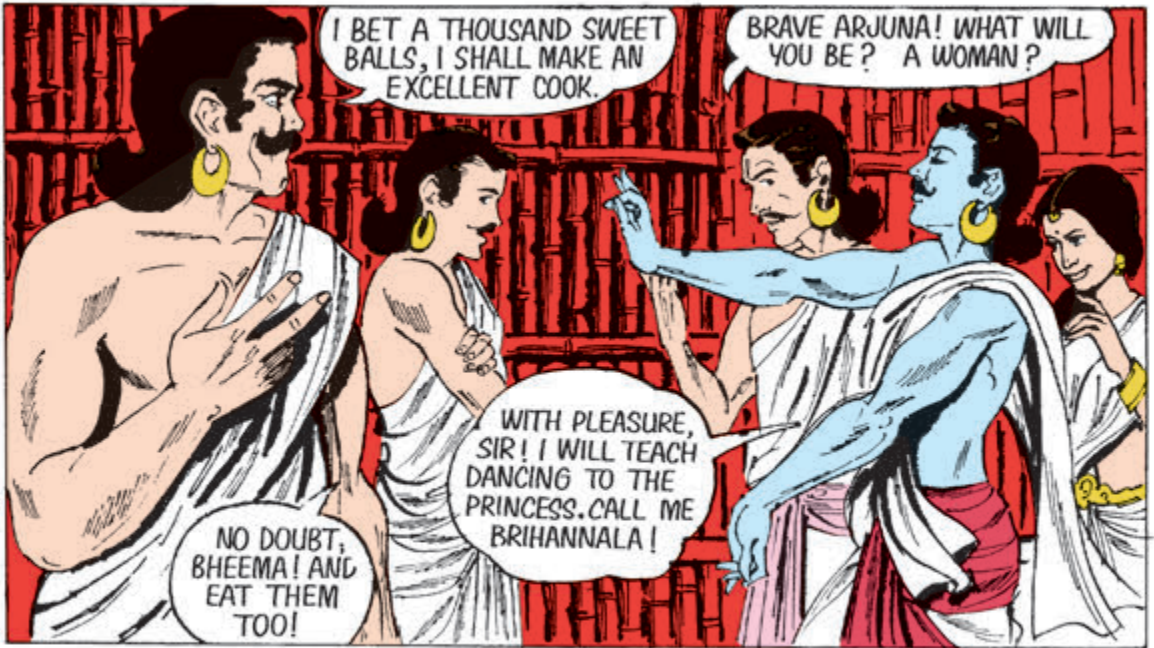


FOR YEARS, THE PANDAVAS WANDERED IN THE FORESTS. THEY HAD ADVENTURES WITH WILD BEASTS, DEMONS AND SAVAGES.









SO, THE PANDAVAS DRESSED AS POOR BRAHMINS, REACHED VIRATA'S PALACE.



VIRATA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW KEECHAKA, THE ARMY COMMANDER, WAS A WICKED MAN.



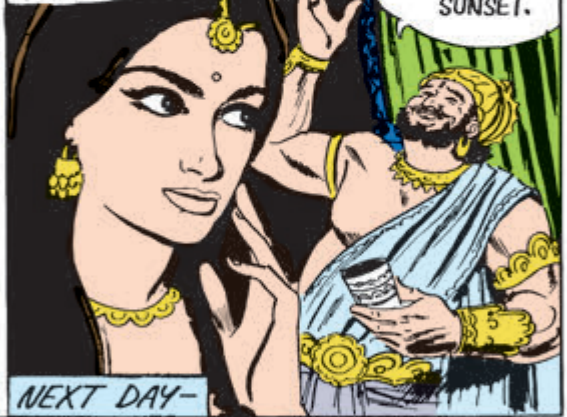
KEECHAKA STARTED HARASSING DRAUPADI.



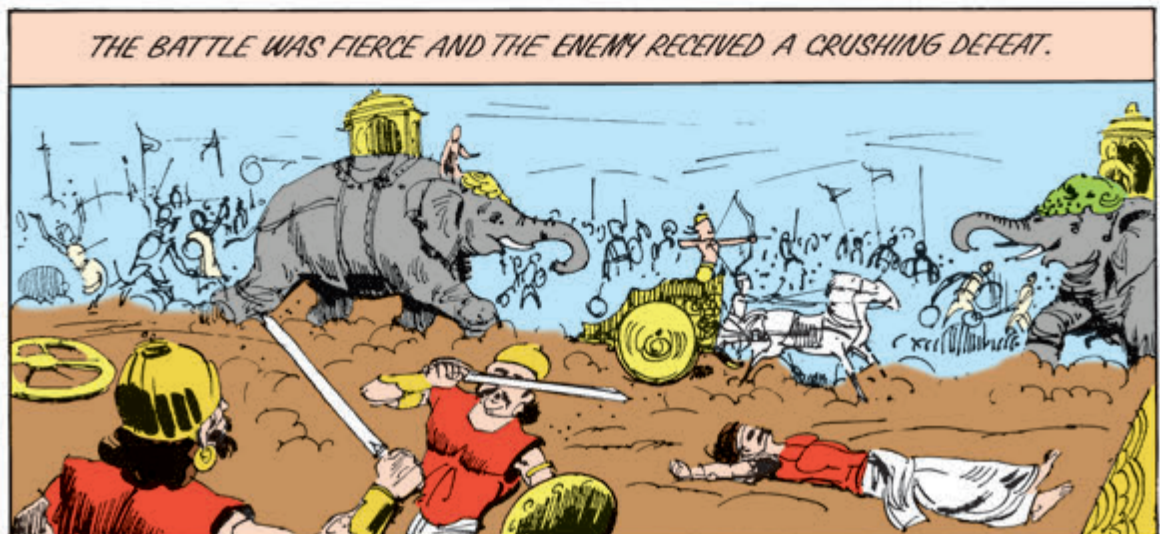
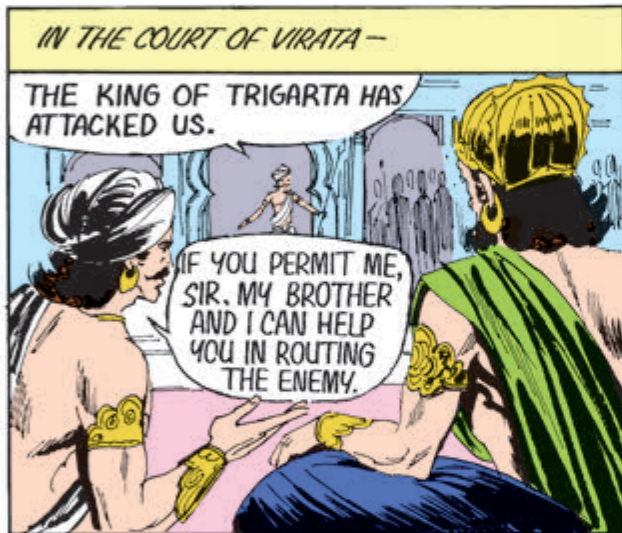
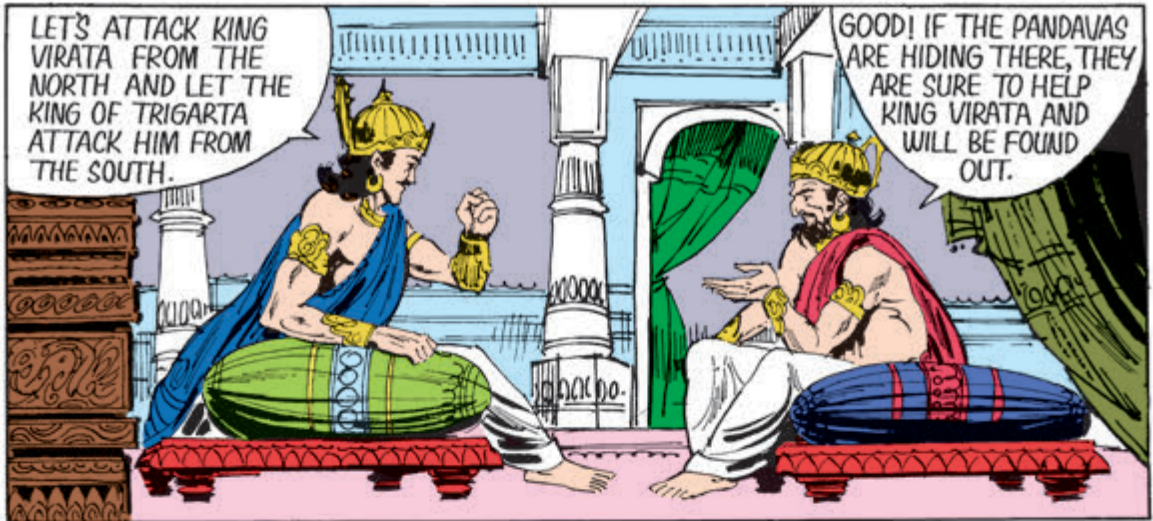
DRAUPADI COMPLAINED TO BHEEMA.



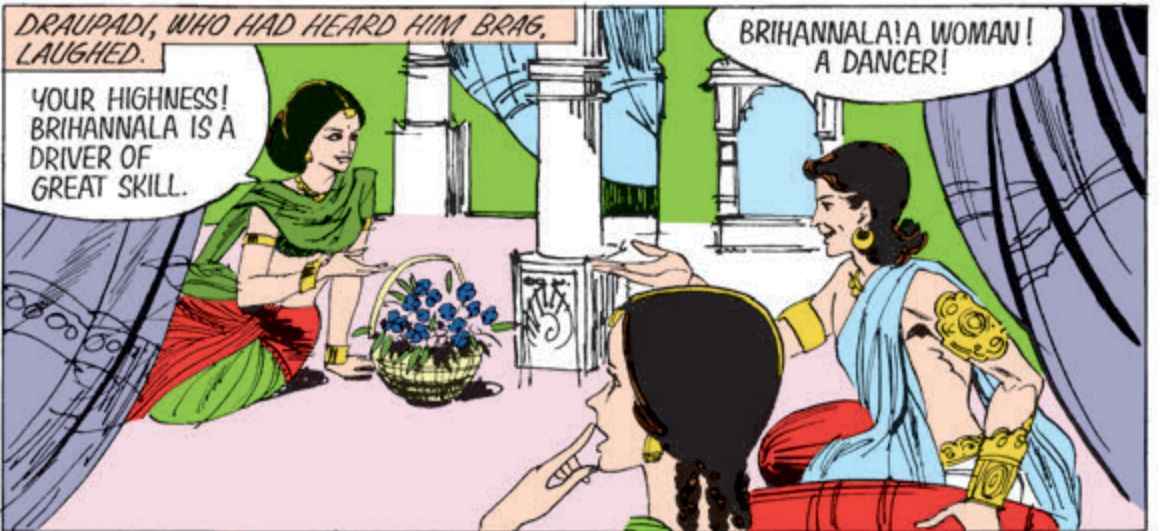
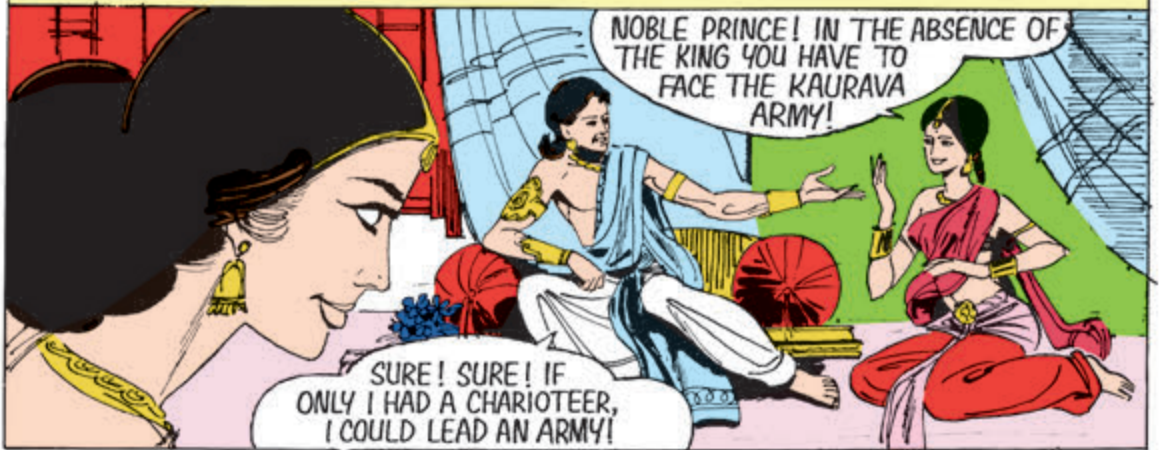
I SHALL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE DANCING HALL.



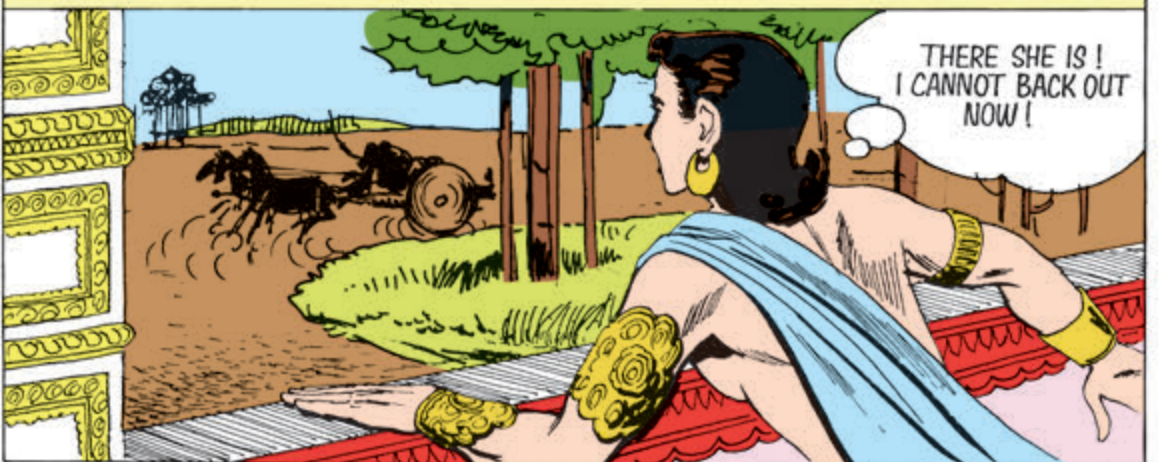




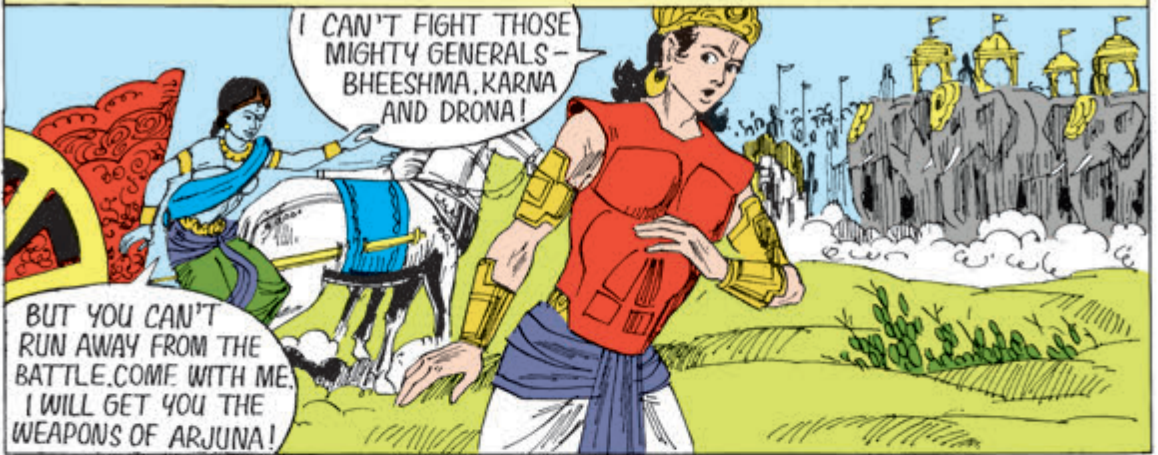
MEANWHILE, THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED IN THE CAPITAL BY PRINCE UTTARA THAT THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH BY THE KAURAVA ARMY.



SOON A CHARIOT DRIVEN BY "BRIHANNALA" ARRIVED NEAR THE PALACE.



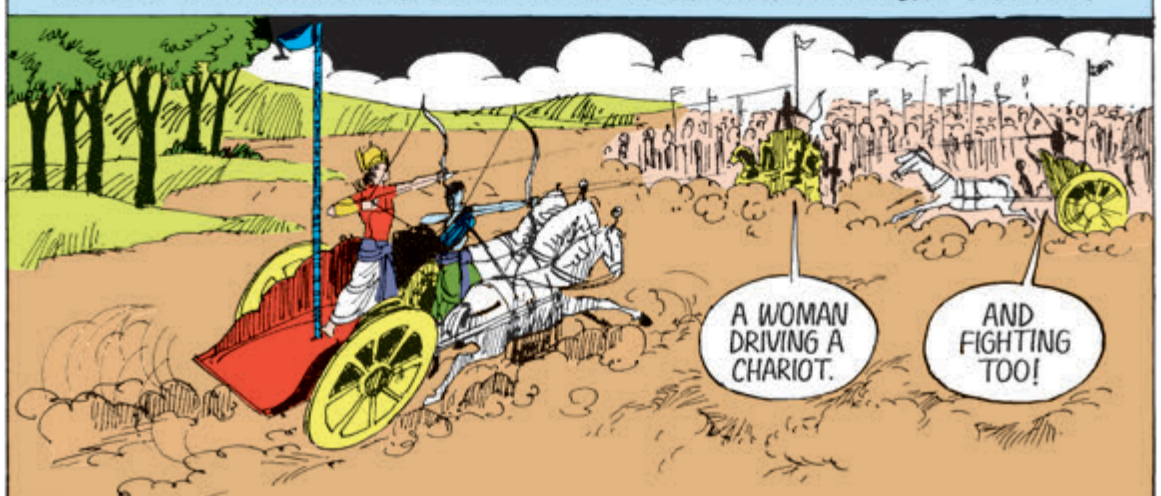
BUT UTTARA WAS FRIGHTENED AT THE SIGHT OF KAURAVA FORCES. HE JUMPED DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT AND STARTED RUNNING.

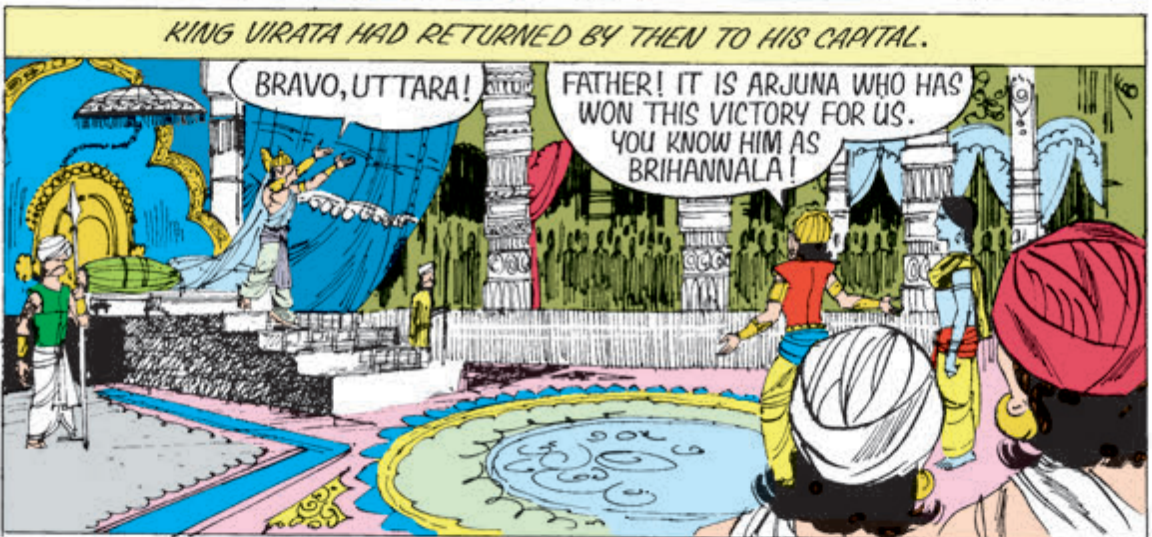
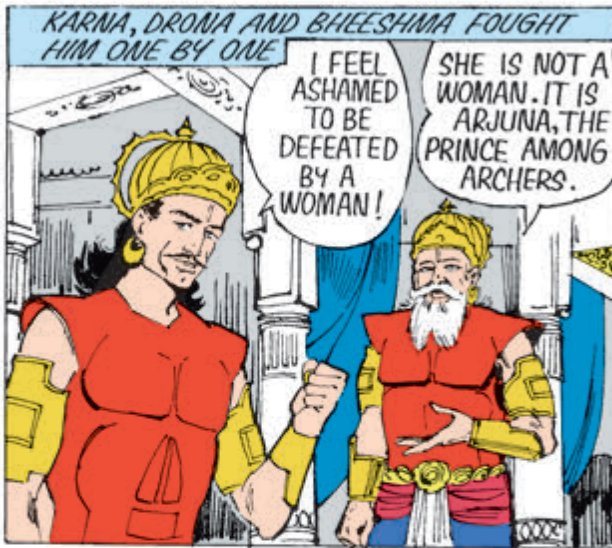


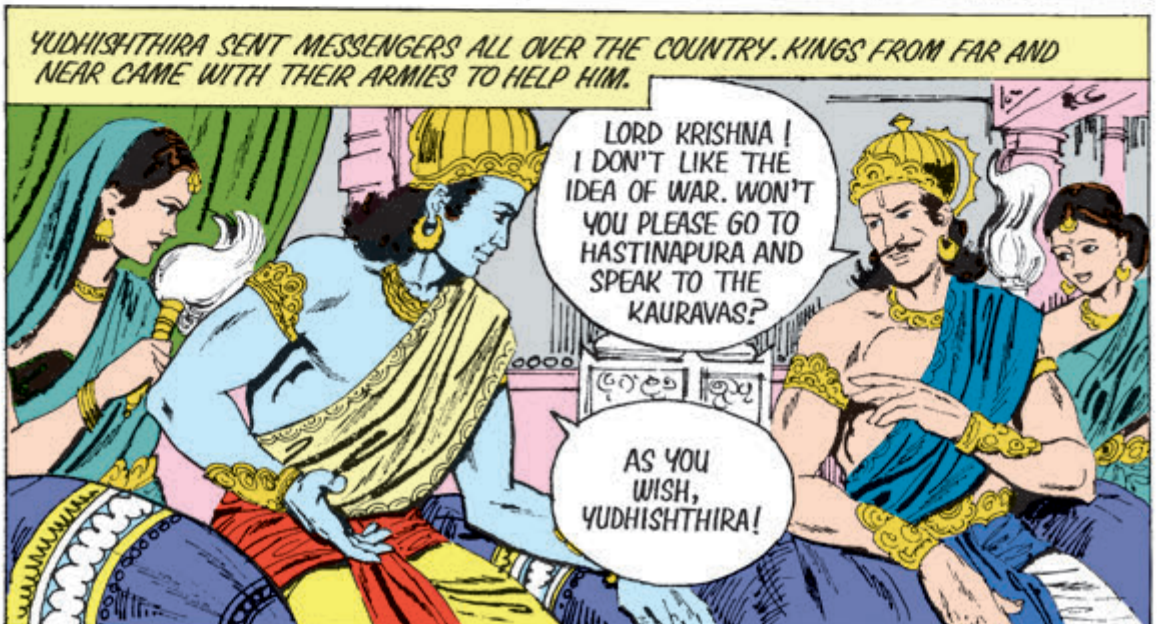
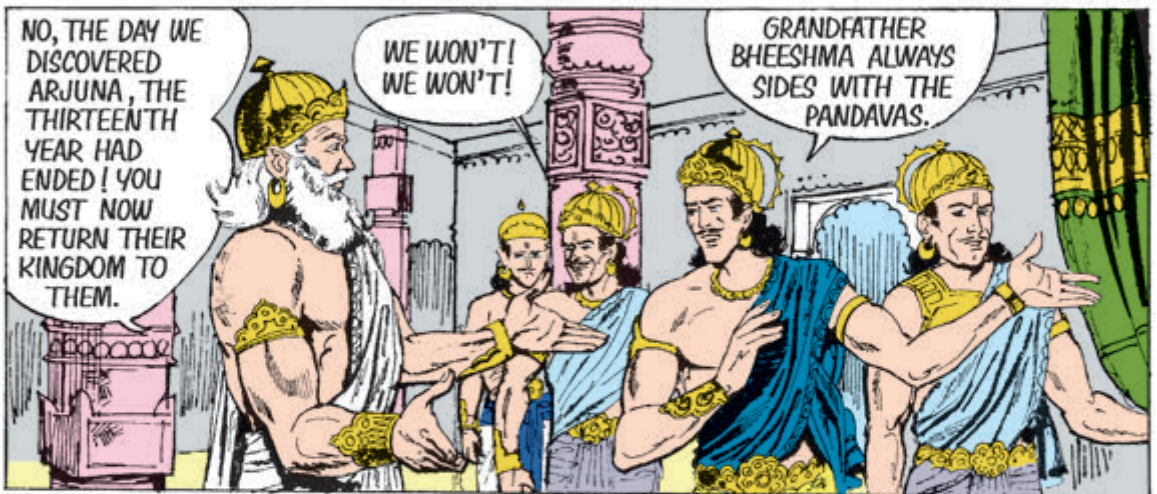
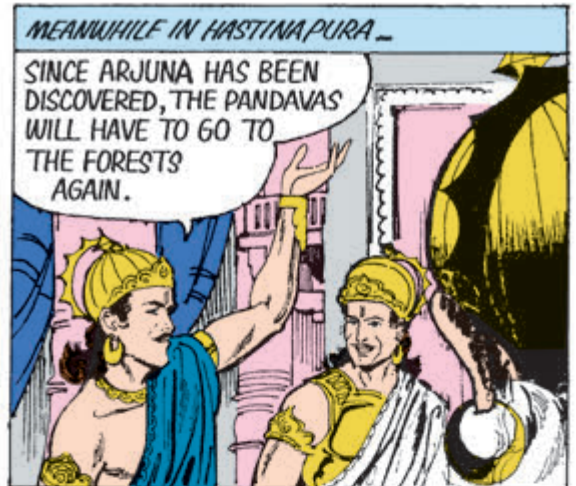
BRIHANNALA TOOK PRINCE UTTARA TO A TREE.

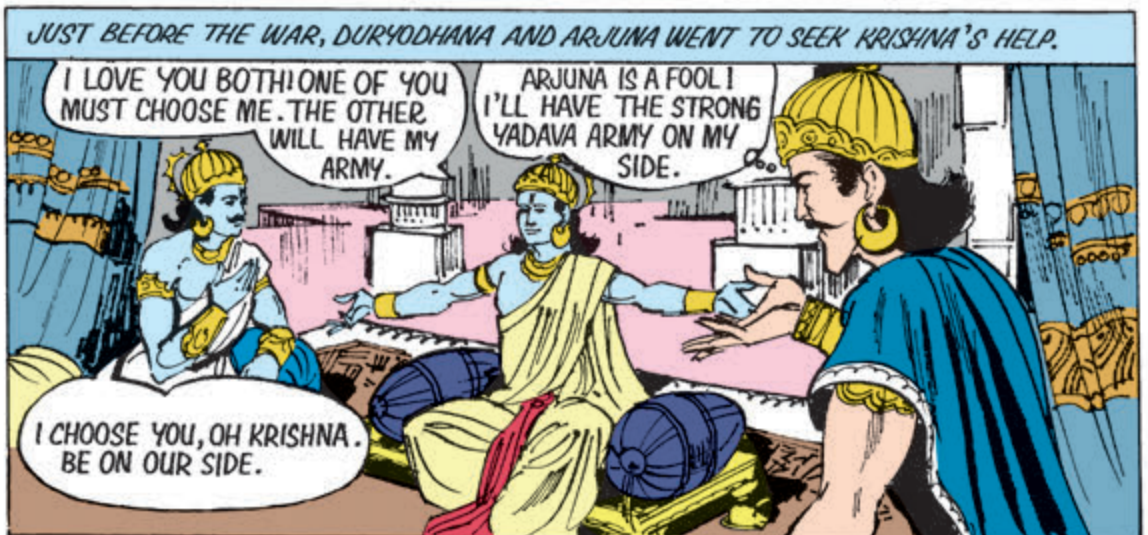
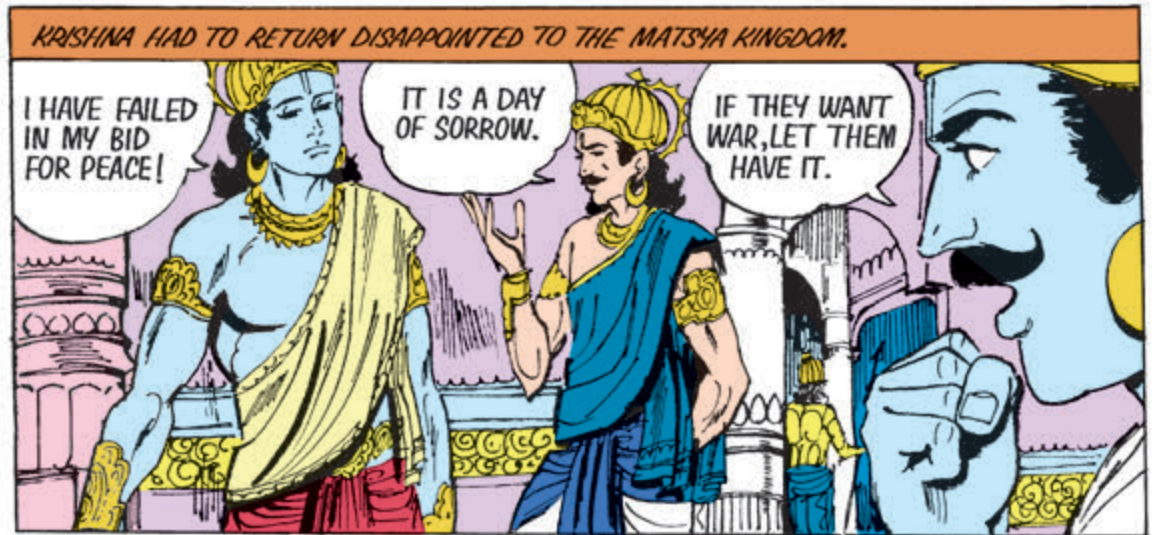


UTTARA WAS INSPIRED BY THE PRESENCE OF ARJUNA. HE FOUGHT BRAVELY.

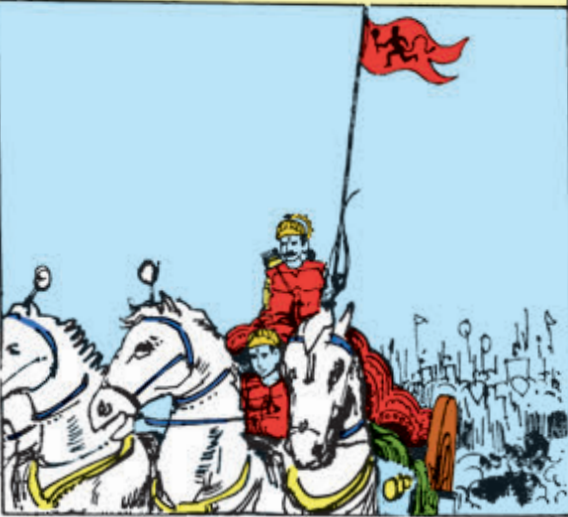








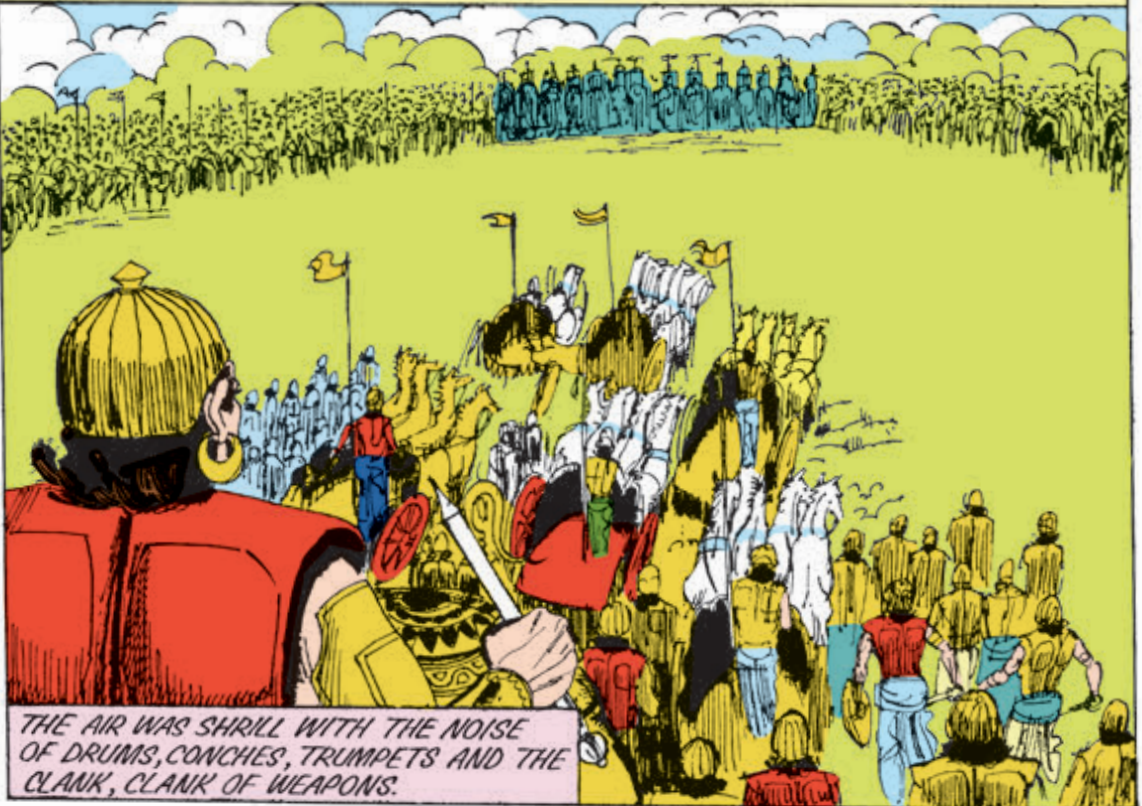
PREPARATIONS FOR WAR WERE COMPLETE. KRISHNA ACCEPTED THE HUMBLE ROLE OF ARJUNA'S CHARIOTEER.



BHEESHMA BECAME THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KAURAVAS.



THE FIELD OF KURUKSHETRA PRESENTED AN AWESOME SPECTACLE. THE KAURAVAS HAD SPREAD IN A VAST SEMI CIRCLE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. THE PANDAVAS HAD ARRANGED THEIR ARMIES IN A NEEDLE-LIKE FORMATION.

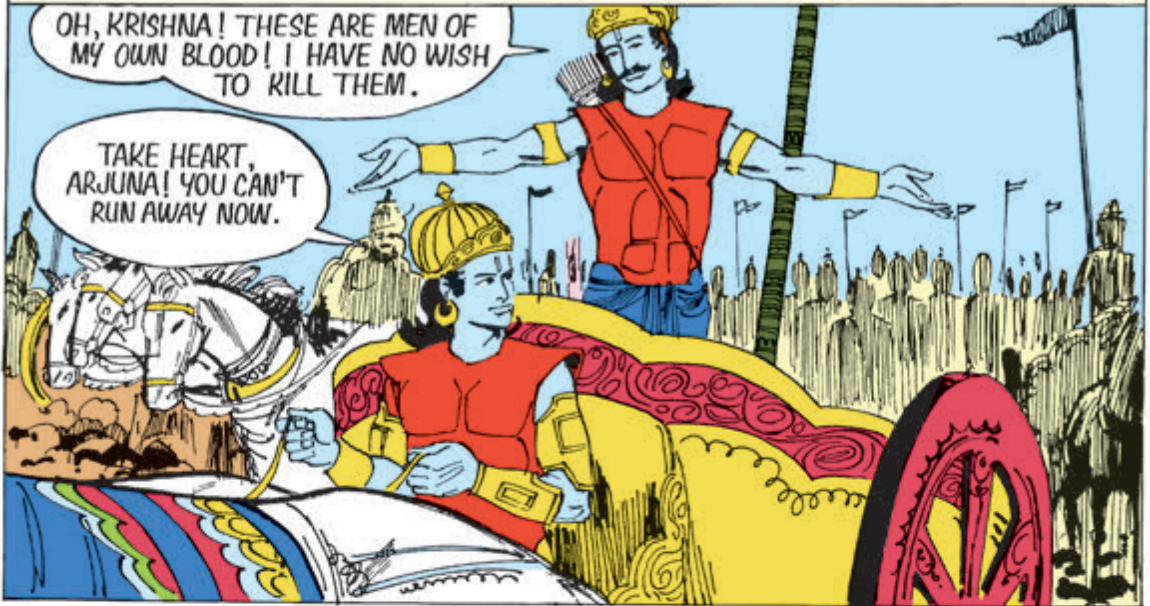


THE AIR WAS SHRILL WITH THE NOISE OF DRUMS, CONCHES, TRUMPETS AND THE CLANK, CLANK OF WEAPONS.

BUT AS THE ZERO HOUR APPROACHED, ARJUNA WAS OVERCOME WITH EMOTION.

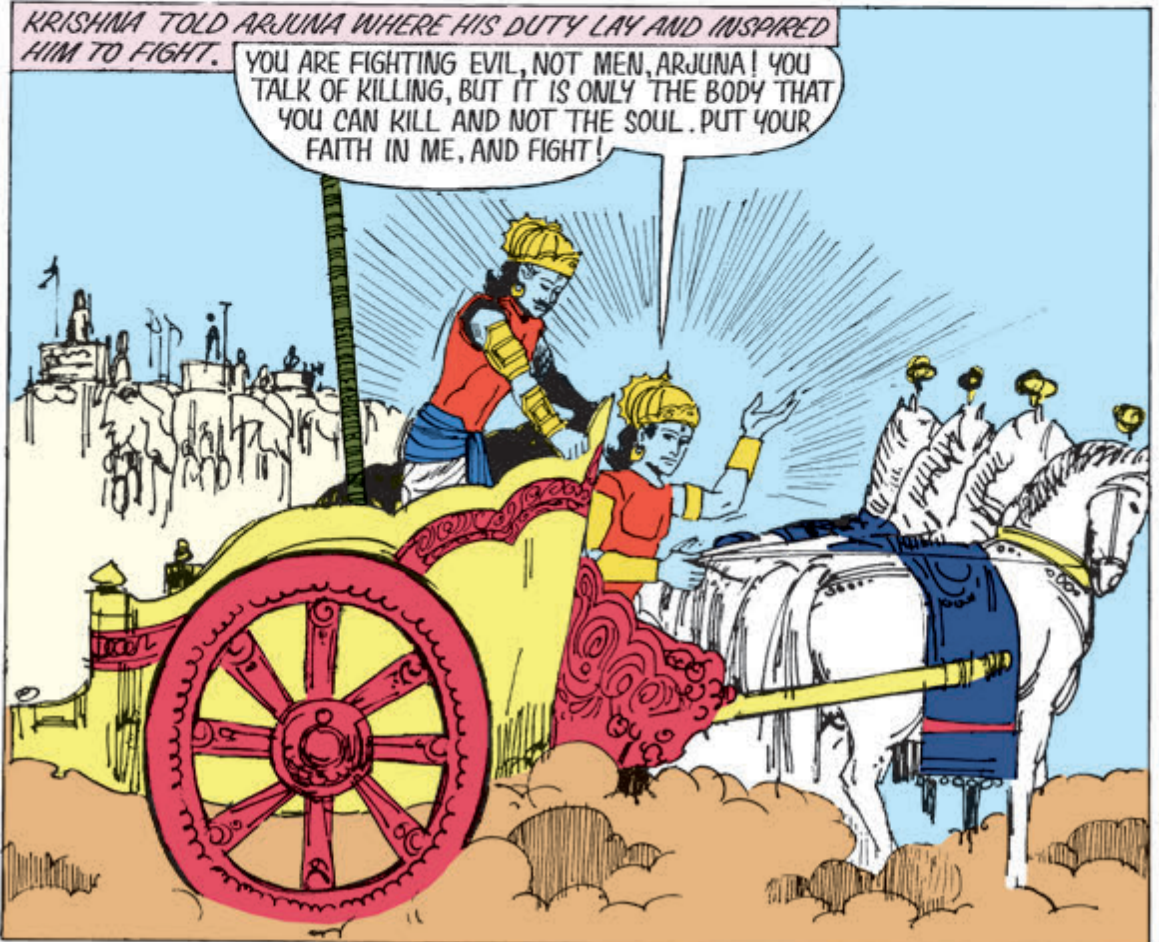
OH, KRISHNA! THESE ARE MEN OF MY OWN BLOOD! I HAVE NO WISH TO KILL THEM.

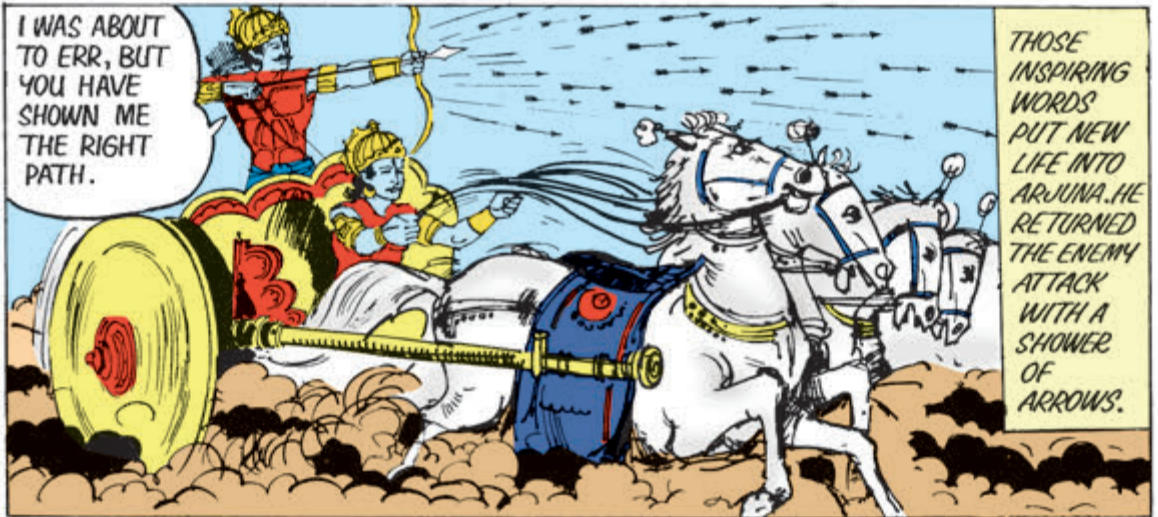
TAKE HEART, ARJUNA! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY NOW.



KRISHNA TOLD ARJUNA WHERE HIS DUTY LAY AND INSPIRED HIM TO FIGHT.

YOU ARE FIGHTING EVIL, NOT MEN, ARJUNA! YOU TALK OF KILLING, BUT IT IS ONLY THE BODY THAT YOU CAN KILL AND NOT THE SOUL. PUT YOUR FAITH IN ME, AND FIGHT!

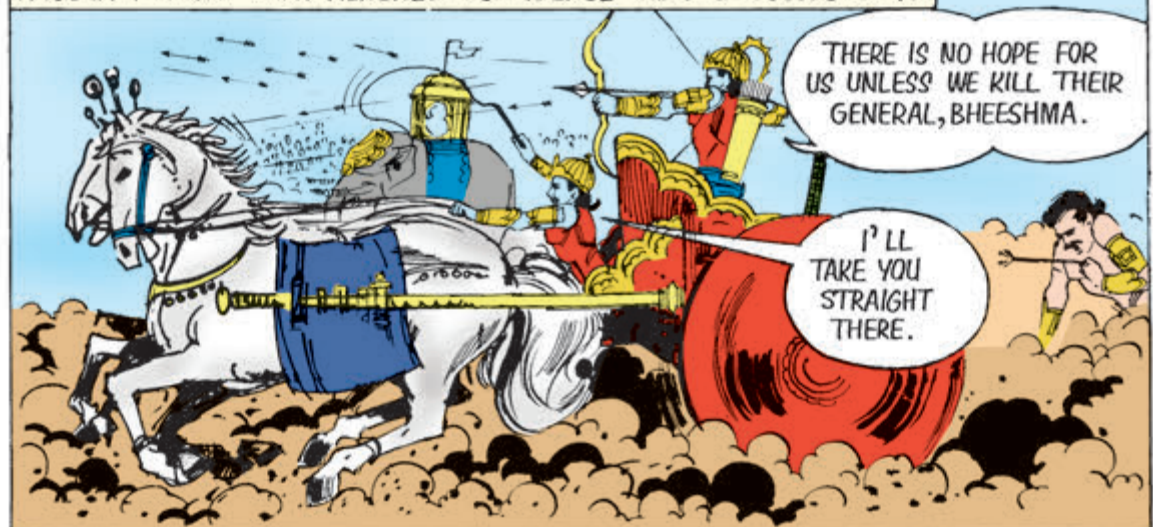


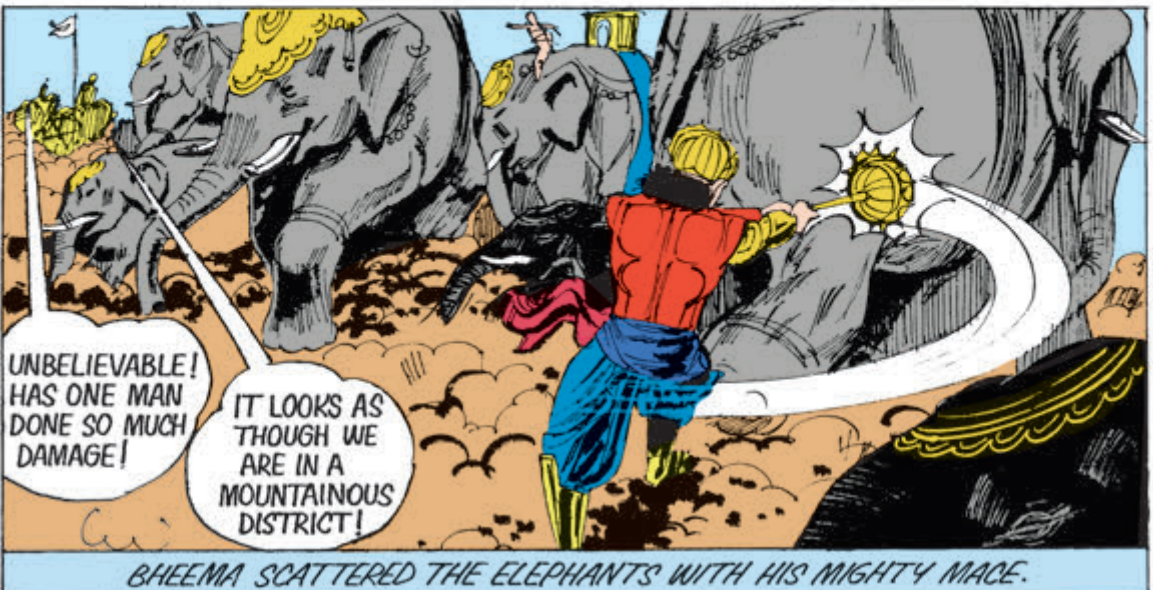
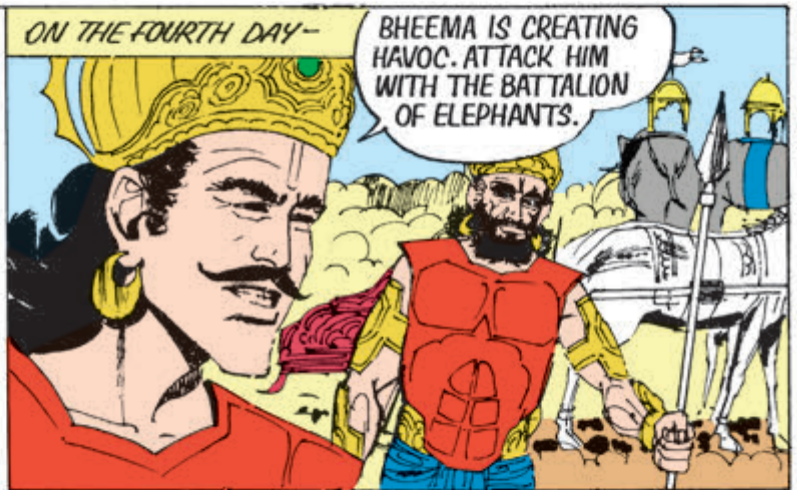


AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, HOWEVER, THE PANDAVA ARMY WAS BADLY MAULED. THE SOLDIERS RETURNED TO THEIR TENTS (IN THOSE DAYS THEY NEVER FOUGHT AFTER SUNSET)

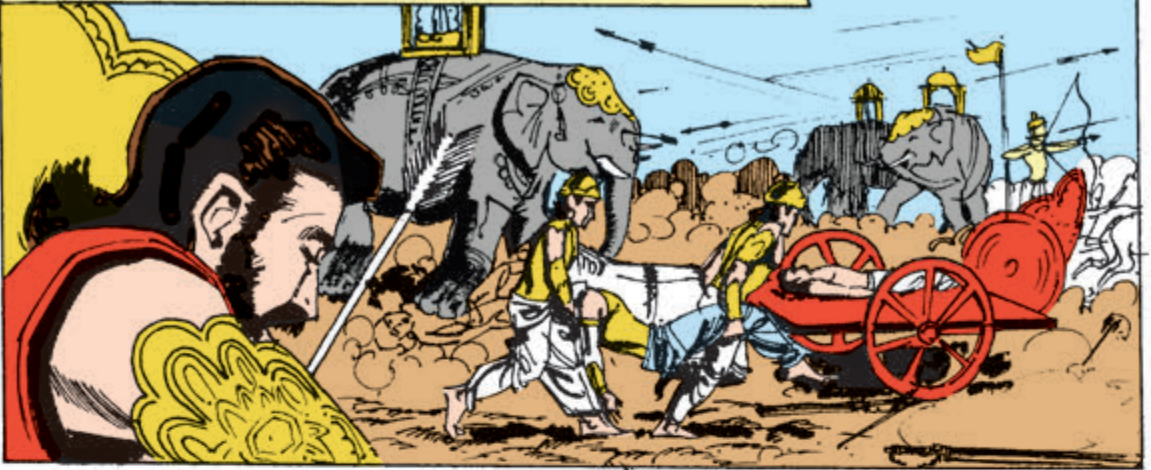


ARJUNA FOUGHT WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE ON THE SECOND DAY.

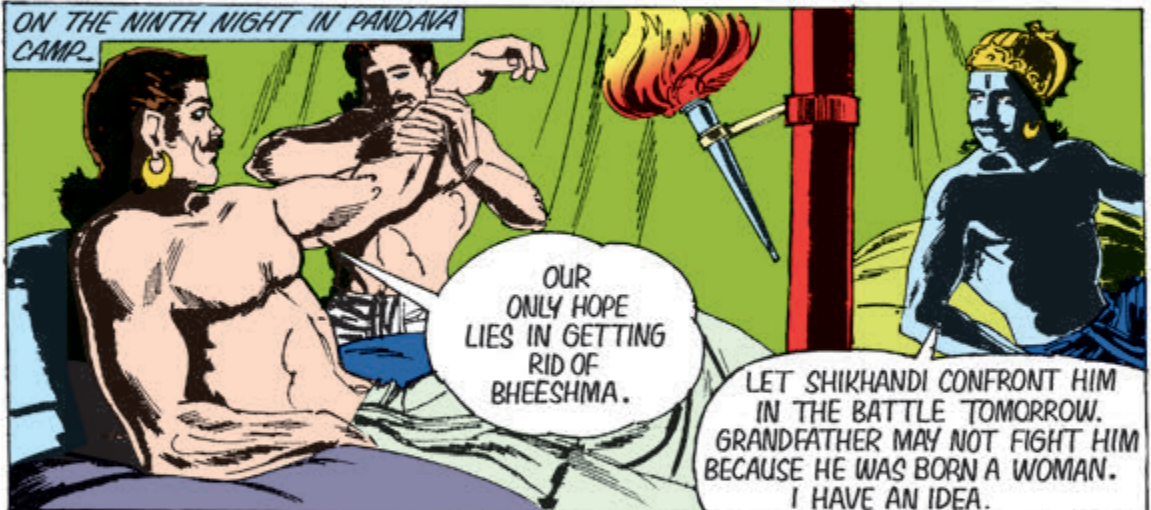




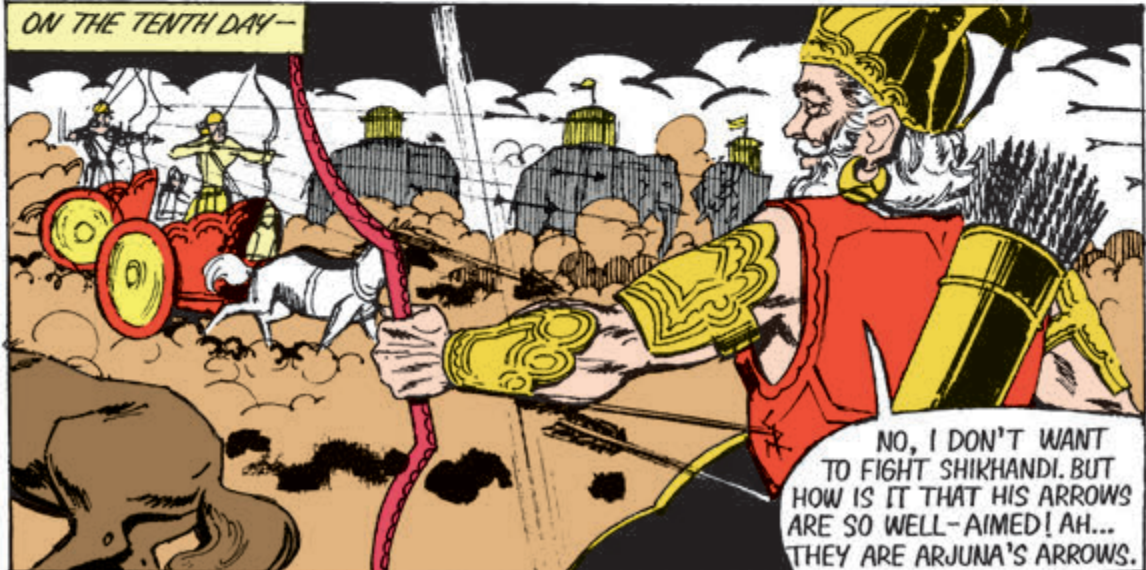
WITH EACH SUCCEEDING DAY, THE WAR INCREASED IN FURY.



ON THE NINTH NIGHT IN PANDAVA CAMP.



ON THE TENTH DAY—



BHEESHMA FELL, HIS BODY PIERCED IN MANY PLACES BY THE ARROWS OF ARJUNA.



WHEN THE FIGHTING ENDED FOR THE DAY, FRIENDS AS WELL AS FOES GATHERED AROUND THE OLD MAN.



THREE
ARROWS
FROM
ARJUNA'S
BOW GAVE
HIM
A PILLOW AND
ONE ARROW
STRUCK DEEP
INTO THE
EARTH,
GAVE
WATER.

GOOD! I WILL NOW
REST AND AWAIT MY
DEATH ON MY
APPOINTED DAY!



DRONA NOW BECAME THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KAURAVA ARMY.

ACHARYA! LET'S CAPTURE YUDHISHTHIRA ALIVE.

YES,
DURYODHANA

ARJUNA CAME TO YUDHISHTHIRA'S RESCUE.

I MUST GO BACK
ARJUNA'S ARROWS ARE
COMING TOO FAST.

ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY, A BOY
HERO STOLE ALL THE HONOURS-
ABHIMANYU, THE SON OF ARJUNA.

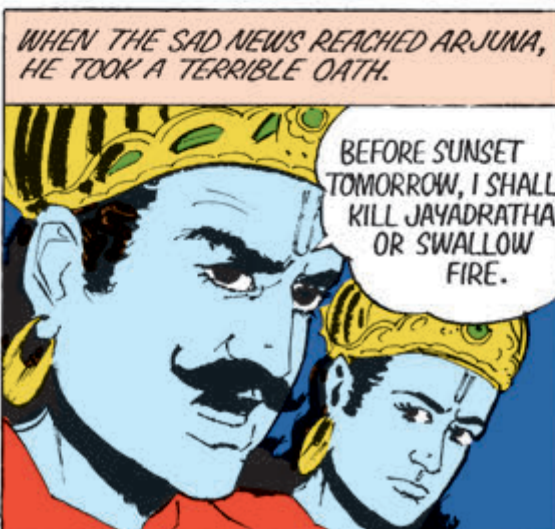
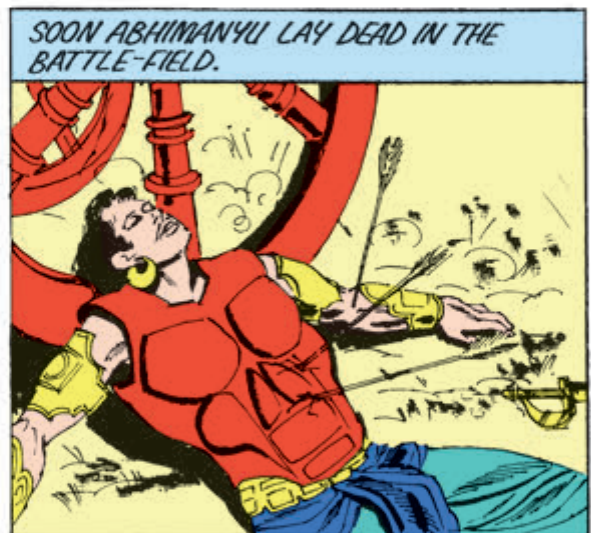
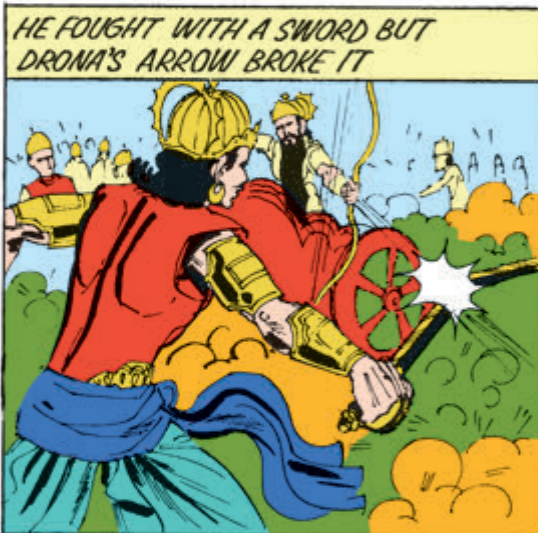
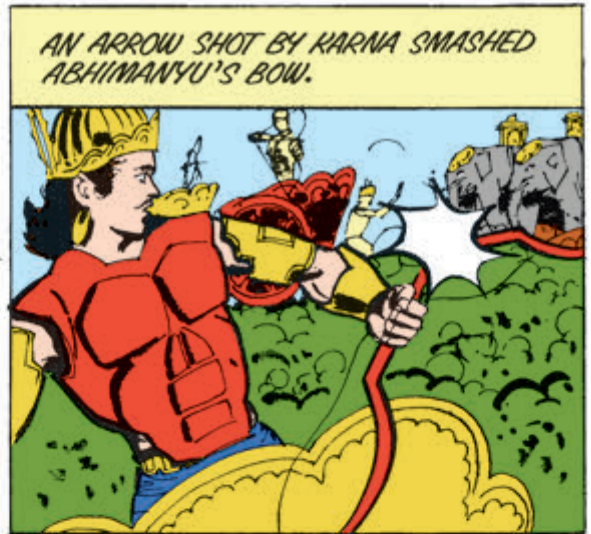
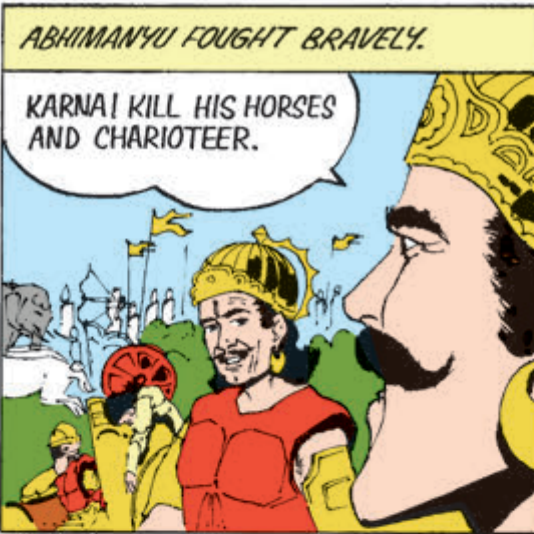
LOOK, ABHIMANYU!
A PUZZLING FORMATION.

YES IT'S
THE WHEEL
FORMATION.

ABHIMANYU PLUNGED HEROICALLY IN.

FOLLOW HIM, HE MAY
BE TRAPPED.

BUT PRINCE YUDHISHTHIRA!
WICKED JAYADRATHA
HAS SEALED THE
ENTRANCE.



ARJUNA WAS EQUALLY DETERMINED TO KILL JAYADRATHA, BUT THE DAY WAS COMING TO A CLOSE.



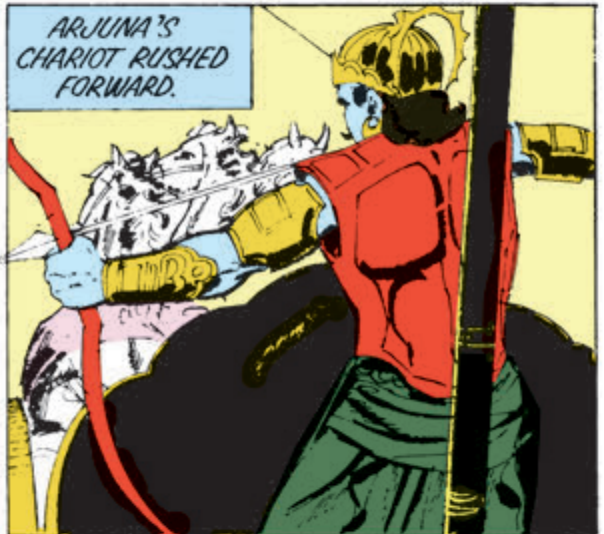
THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN—



BUT THE SUN HAD REALLY NOT SET.

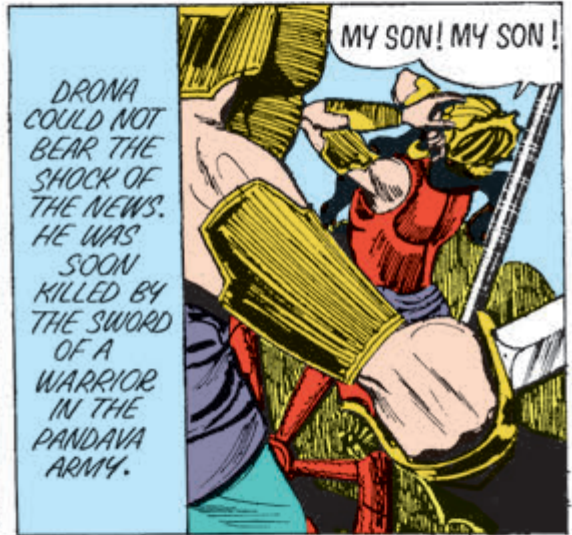
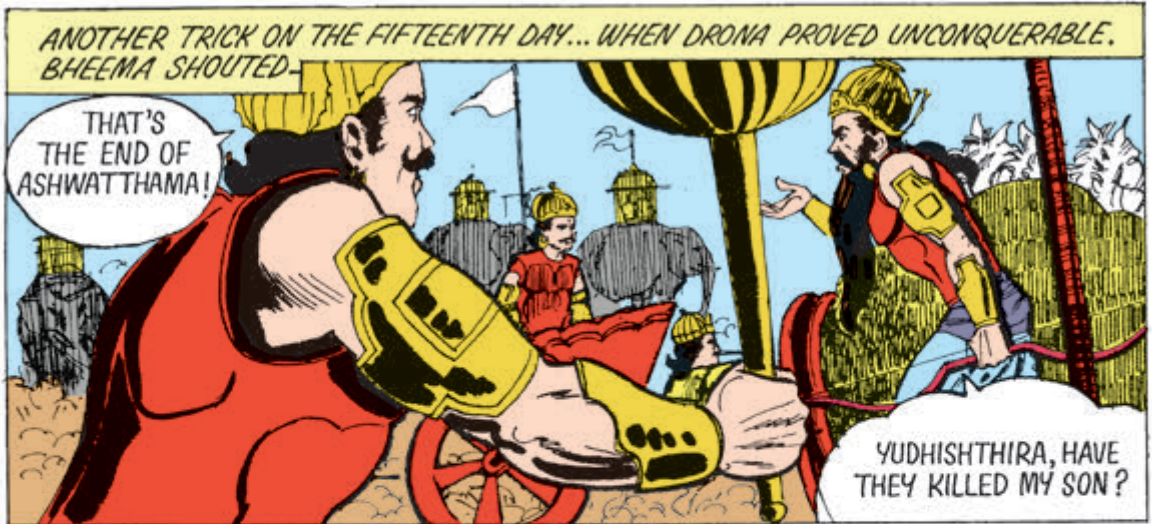


ARJUNA'S CHARIOT RUSHED FORWARD.

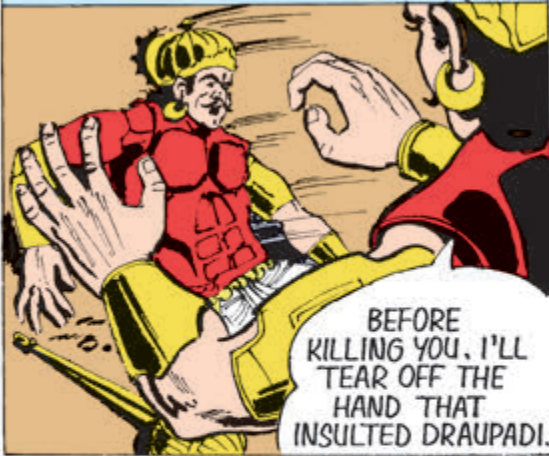


AND SOON—





IN THE COMBAT, DUHSHASANA FELL.

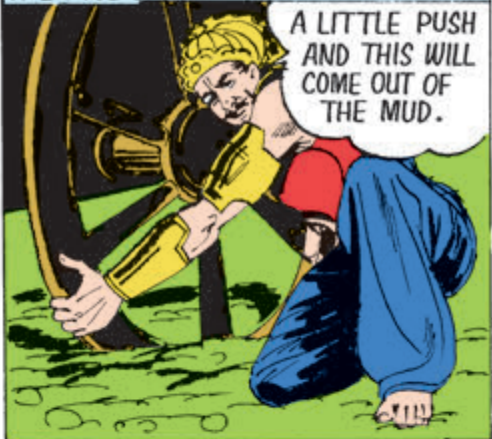


BEFORE
KILLING YOU, I'LL
TEAR OFF THE
HAND THAT
INSULTED DRAUPADI.

KARNA FOUGHT WITH ARJUNA, HIS SERPENT
LIKE ARROWS CHASED ARJUNA WHEREVER
HE WENT.

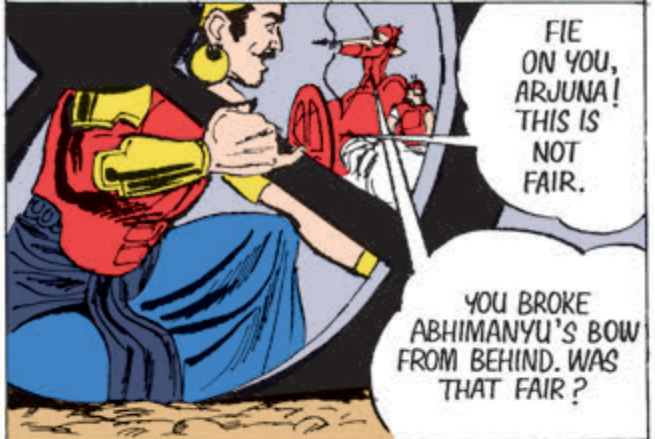


THEN ARJUNA HAD HIS OPPORTUNITY.
KARNA'S CHARIOT WAS CAUGHT IN
THE MUD.



A LITTLE PUSH
AND THIS WILL
COME OUT OF
THE MUD.

ARJUNA'S ARROWS CONTINUED TO COME
WHIZZING THROUGH THE AIR.



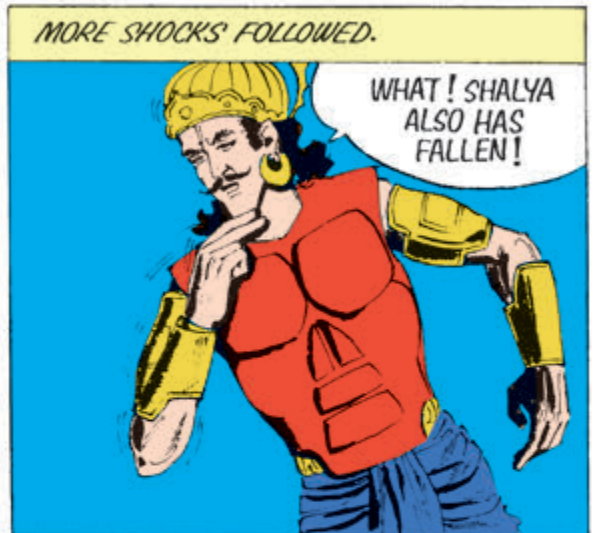
FIE
ON YOU,
ARJUNA!
THIS IS
NOT
FAIR.

YOU BROKE
ABHIMANYU'S BOW
FROM BEHIND. WAS
THAT FAIR?

AND THEN A CRESCENT-HEADED ARROW CAME WHIZZING FROM ARJUNA'S BOW.



THE GREAT KARNA
BEHEADED.



DURYODHANA WAS HURT.

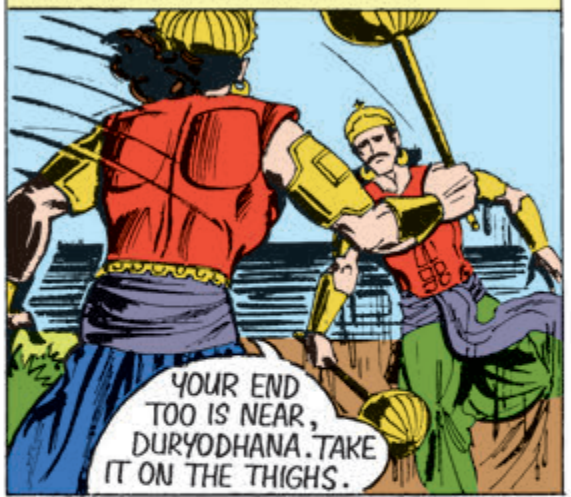
I DON'T! ARE YOU WILLING TO FIGHT A DUEL ?

COME OUT FIRST.



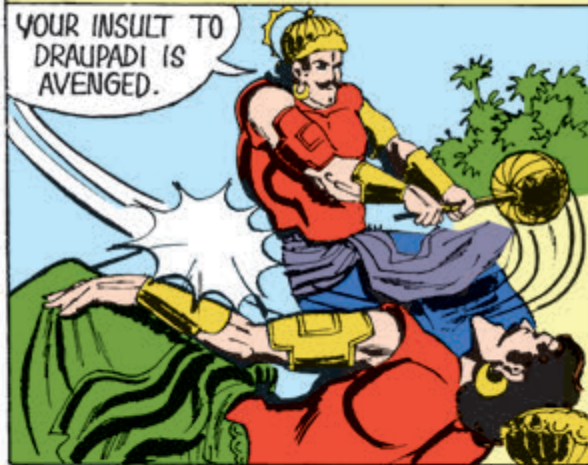
BHEEMA LEAPED LIKE A LION.

YOUR END TOO IS NEAR, DURYODHANA. TAKE IT ON THE THIGHS.



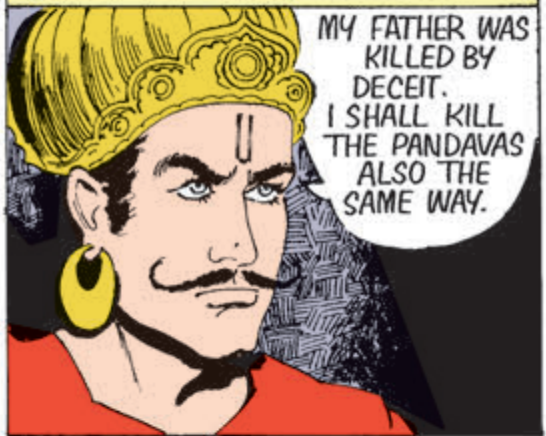
MORTALLY WOUNDED, DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND.

YOUR INSULT TO DRAUPADI IS AVENGED.



THAT NIGHT ASHWATTHAMA, SON OF DRONA, SAT BROODING.

MY FATHER WAS KILLED BY DECEIT. I SHALL KILL THE PANDAVAS ALSO THE SAME WAY.



STEALTHILY HE APPROACHED THE PANDAVA CAMP WITH TWO FRIENDS. HE MISTOOK THE SONS OF THE PANDAVAS FOR THE PANDAVAS.

SH! THEY ARE ASLEEP.



ENTERING THE TENTS THEY KILLED THE OCCUPANTS IN THEIR SLEEP AND THEN SET FIRE TO THE CAMP.



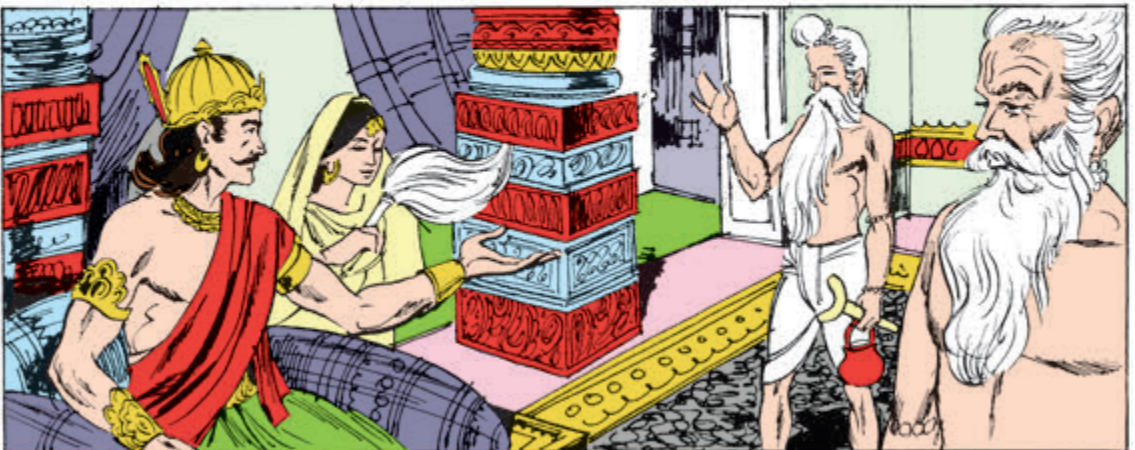
DURYODHANA HEARD THE NEWS LYING WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.



THERE WAS GREAT SORROW IN THE PANDAVA CAMP. ALL THE SONS OF DRAUPADI HAD BEEN KILLED.



LORD KRISHNA CONSOLED THEM.



YUDHISHTHIRA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA AND RULED IT FOR MANY MANY YEARS.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappan
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrahasa
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
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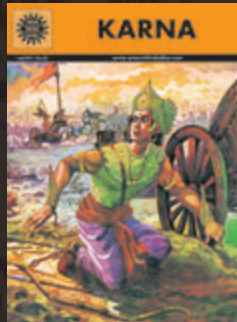


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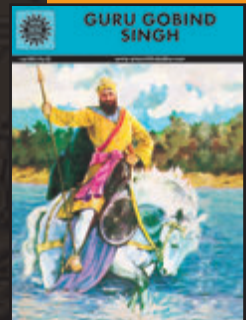
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